

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3359
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, PDEV, UNGA, RQ

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO

SUMMARY: THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) ON SEPT 12
ADOPTED THE REVISED CUBAN RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO
AFTER AMENDING THE THIRD OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH AND

ADDING TWO NEW PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS. VOTE WAS 10 IN FAVOR, NONE AGAINST AND 12 ABSTENTIONS. AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT TO OPERATIVE PARA 3(ON "TRANSFER OF POWER") WAS ADOPTED 9-3 (AUSTRALIA)-9 ONLY AFTER HAVING BEEN FURTHER AMENDED BY CUBA. AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT TO OPERATIVE PARA 4 ("PERSECUTIONS" OF PR INDEPENDENCE ADVOCATES) FAILED BY 8-9-4. SWEDISH PROPOSAL TO NOTE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION AND AMB. YOUNG'S STATEMENT AND REFERENCE TO 1953 LODGE STATEMENT REQUESTED BY CUBA WERE INCORPORATED INTO RESOLUTION BEFORE VOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SEPT 12 FINAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 FOR THIS YEAR WAS LED OFF BY SWEDISH REP HEINEBACK, WHO SAID THE REVISED CUBAN TEXT ON PUERTO RICO (A/AC.109/L.-1276/REV.1) INTRODUCED ON SEPTEMBER 8 WAS THE RESULT OF EFFORTS MADE WITHIN THE COMMITTEE TO REACH A CONSENSUS. HE THANKED THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, BUT BELIEVED EVEN GREATER AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, HE INTRODUCED AN AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW PARAGRAPH AT THE END OF THE PREAMBULAR SECTION: "NOTING THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON PUERTO RICO MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON 25 JULY 1978 AND BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON 28 AUGUST 1978."

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3. AMBASSADOR ANDERSON OF AUSTRALIA STATED THAT THE DOMINANT THEME OF C-24 DEBATE ON PUERTO RICO HAD BEEN NEED FOR A CONSENSUS TEXT. HE CITED THE WIDESPREAD VIEW AMONG THE PUERTO RICANS IN FAVOR OF REVIEWING THEIR CURRENT STATUS AND THE CORRESPONDING ENCOURAGING RESPONSE BY THE U.S. HE BELIEVED THE INTERESTS OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY A C-24 CONSENSUS. THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT HIS DEL'S EFFORTS TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL CUBAN DRAFT HAD THE INTENTION OF LEAVING OPEN TO THE PUERTO RICANS ALL POSSIBLE OPTIONS -- INDEPENDENCE, FREE ASSOCIATION, OR STATEHOOD -- AND SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD NO RIGHT TO IMPOSE ANY STATUS ON PUERTO RICO. THE NEW CUBAN TEXT, HE SAID, WAS NO A CONSENSUS TEXT, BUT IT WAS AN IMPROVEMENT, ESPECIALLY WITH THE SWEDISH AMENDMENT WHICH HIS DEL SUPPORTED.

4. IN THE HOPE OF ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS TEXT, ANDERSON INTRODUCED TWO FURTHER AMENDMENTS: A) IN OPERATIVE PARA 3 THE WORDS "AFTER A COMPLETE TRANSFER OF POWERS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO

THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE", WOULD BE REPLACED BY THE
WORDS "IN COMPLETE AND FULL SOVEREIGNTY;" AND B) OPERATIVE
PARA 4 WOULD READ "CONSIDERS THAT ANY PERSECUTIONS,
HARASSMENTS AND REPRESSIVE MEASURES TO WHICH THE ORGANI-
ZATIONS AND PERSONS STRUGGLING FOR INDEPENDENCE ARE
SUBJECTED WOULD CONSTITUTE..."

5. AMBASSADOR ANDERSON SAID THAT HIS GOVT STILL HELD
STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE COMPETENCE OF THE C-24

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IN THIS MATTER, AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CUBAN RES CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR HIS DEL, PARTICULARLY OPERATIVE PARA 7 (RELEASE OF FOUR "POLITICAL PERSONALITIES"); HOWEVER, THE ADOPTION OF THE TWO AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS AND THE SWEDISH AMENDMENT WOULD ENABLE HIS DEL TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONSENSUS.

6. INDIAN AMB JAIPAL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT CUBA HAD TAKEN THE VIEWS OF OTHERS INTO ACCOUNT IN INTRODUCING A REVISED TEXT, ALTHOUGH A CONSENSUS HAD NOT BEEN ACHIEVED. HE WAS CRITICAL OF FACT THAT U.S. HAD "NOT SEEN FIT" TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION AND SAID THAT IN ABSENCE OF FORMAL STATEMENT OF US VIEWS IN COMMITTEE, CONSULTATIONS HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT INFORMALLY WITH THE U.S. MISSION. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT USG OFFICIALS FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AND CALLED AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AUGUST 28 STATEMENT ON NO USG OBJECTION TO UN OBSERVATION OF A FUTURE PUERTO RICAN REFERENDUM "WELCOME AND INTERESTING." JAIPAL SAID HE COULD NOT VOTE FOR OPERATIVE PARA 3 OF NEW CUBAN TEXT ON MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, SAYING "COMPLETE TRANSFER OF POWER" IS SYNANOMOUS WITH INDEPENDENCE. THUS THIS FORMULATION WOULD CONSTITUTE TELLING AN INDEPENDENT NATION HOW TO ACHIEVE SELF-DETERMINATION. HE SAID SELF-DETERMINATION SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED IN A PARTICULAR MANNER. HE THOUGHT AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT TO PARA 3 DID NOT ENTIRELY RESOLVE PROBLEM AND PREFERRED DELETION, BUT HE SUPPORTED THE AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS, AS WELL AS THE SWEDISH AMENDMENT.

7. CUBAN AMB ROA STRESSED THE EFFORTS OF CUBA TO ACCOMMODATE THE VIEWS OF OTHER DELS. HOWEVER, CUBA UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD NOT SEEK CONSENSUS FOR THE SAKE OF CONSENSUS AND THUS SACRIFICE IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES. HE ACCEPTED THE SWEDISH PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH, WHILE NOTING THAT THE US STATEMENTS REFERRED TO HAD NEVER BEEN INTRODUCED AS OFFICIAL UN DOCUMENTS, BUT ONLY IF THAT PARA WERE PRECEDED BY ONE READING AS FOLLOWS: "RECALLING THE

STATEMENT ON PUERTO RICO MADE ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AT THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON 27 NOVEMBER 1953." (SWEDEN ACCEPTED THE CUBAN
ADDITION.)

8. CUBA, ROA SAID, COULD ACCEPT THE AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT
TO PARA 3, BUT ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT IT BE FURTHER
AMENDED TO INSERT AFTER THE REFERENCE TO RESOLUTION
1514 (XV), THE PHRASE "WHICH INTER ALIA PROVIDES FOR
THE FULL TRANSFER OF POWERS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
TERRITORY." HE REJECTED THE AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT TO
PARA 4 WHICH HE SAID WOULD PUT A "FACT" IN THE CONDITION-
AL TENSE. HE CONTENDED THAT EVEN THE "COLONIALIST"
GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO AND THE FBI HAD ADMITTED THAT
THEIR HAD BEEN PERSECUTIONS IN PUERTO RICO.

9. FOLLOWING A BRIEF STATEMENT BY INDONESIA (JUWANA)
IN SUPPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN AND SWEDISH AMENDMENTS,
CHAIRMAN SALIM ASKED IF ALL AGREED TO INCORPORATE THE
TWO NEW PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS PROPOSED BY SWEDEN AND
CUBA. THIS WAS AGREED WITHOUT VOTE. CONGO
THEN EXPLAINED IT WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE AS
IT HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS. THE TANZANIAN REP
EXPLAINED THAT ITS VOTE FOR THE RES "AS AMENDED" WOULD
BE BASED ON ITS INTERPRETATION OF THE RES AS LEAVING

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TO THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE THE ULTIMATE DECISION OVER THEIR DESTINY. AUSTRALIA SAID IT HAD MUCH THE SAME OBJECTION TO THE FORMULATION FOR PARA 3 PROPOSED IN THE CUBAN SUBAMENDMENT AS TO THE ORIGINAL "TRANSFER OF POWER" WORDING.

10. RESULTS OF THE VOTING WERE AS FOLLOWS (IVORY COAST ABSENT THROUGHOUT; CONGO NOT PARTICIPATING THROUGHOUT; CHINA NOT PARTICIPATING IN VOTES ON AMENDMENTS):

A. CUBAN SUBAMENDMENT TO AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT TO OPERATIVE PARA 3: ADOPTED BY 9 IN FAVOR (AFGHANISTAN, BULGARIA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ETHIOPIA, IRAQ, SYRIA, TANZANIA, USSR), 3 OPPOSED (AUSTRALIA, CHILE, IRAN) AND 9 ABSTENTIONS.

B. AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT TO PARA 3, AS AMENDED BY CUBA: ADOPTED BY 9-3-9 (SAME BREAKDOWN AS A ABOVE)

C. AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENT TO PARA 4: REJECTED BY 8 IN FAVOR, 9 OPPOSED (SAME 9 AS IN A ABOVE) AND 4 ABSTENTIONS (MALI, SIERRA LEONE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, YUGOSLAVIA).

D. RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE, AS AMENDED: ADOPTED BY 10 IN FAVOR (9 AS IN A ABOVE, PLUS CHINA), NONE OPPOSED AND 12 ABSTENTIONS.

11. AFTER VOTE THERE WERE VOTE EXPLANATIONS BY CHINA AND YUGOSLAVIA, WHICH NOTED PRESENCE OF IRRELEVANT ELEMENTS IN THE RESOLUTION. BOTH EMPHASIZED THEIR SUPPORT FOR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE.

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12. NOTE: FOR INFORMATION OF ADDRESSEES, AMB LODGE STATEMENT OF NOV 27, 1953 CITED IN RES AS ADOPTED STATES IN PART THAT "IF AT ANY TIME THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO ADOPTS A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF MORE COMPLETE OR EVEN ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE, HE (PRES EISENHOWER) WILL IMMEDIATELY RECOMMEND TO CONGRESS THAT SUCH INDEPENDENCE BE GRANTED."

13. TEXT OF OPERATIVE PARA 3 AS INCLUDED IN FINAL RESOLUTION FOLLOWS: "AFFIRMS THAT SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO IN A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS SHOULD BE EXERCISED THROUGH MECHANISMS FREELY SELECTED BY THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE IN COMPLETE AND FULL SOVEREIGNTY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) WHICH INTER ALIA PROVIDES FOR THE FULL TRANSFER OF POWERS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY, AND THAT ALL DETERMINATIONS CONCERNING STATUS SHOULD HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE". YOUNG

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